

(8) The usual tax receipts, mortgage releases, judgment satisfactions, etc., will be obtained for each monetary encumbrance which has been discharged. These instruments will be placed with the title papers, unless the landowner wishes to retain them.

(9) Separate receipts on ENG Form 1571, Receipt for Payment Under Power of Attorney, must be obtained for each disbursement made under the power of attorney and order to disburse, including a receipt for the balance of the purchase price paid to the landowner. One copy of such receipt will be placed in the project files.

(10) The Closing Officer will prepare an original and two copies of ENG Form 1570, Report of Disbursement Under Power of Attorney, showing the exact amount of each disbursement made under the power of attorney and order to disburse. The Closing Officer will prepare an original and two copies of appropriate certification thereon. The original and two copies will be signed by the landowner, who will retain one copy. The Closing Officer will place one copy in the files of the project office and will place the original with the title papers. The separate receipts on ENG Form 1571 for each disbursement made will be attached to the original ENG Form 1570.

(o) *Procurement of Check.* (1) After acceptance and distribution of the offer assembly and the acquisition is ready for closing, the following instruments and supporting data will be transmitted to the Finance and Accounting Officer for scheduling of SF 1166, Voucher and Schedule of Payments, and issuance of check:

(i) Two true copies of the preliminary opinion of the Attorney General, where required; or

(ii) Two true copies of a preliminary certificate of title or title guarantee policy where the preliminary opinion of the Attorney General is not required; or

(iii) Two copies of ENG Form 909, Attorney's Preliminary Certificate of Title, in easements acquisition which cost less than \$1,000; and

(iv) Two true copies of other supporting data evidencing amount due and payable, such as statement of closing attorney; and

(v) Two true copies of the offer assembly or deed executed by the vendor, if offer form has not been utilized.

(2) The following statement, appropriately modified, signed by the Chief, Real Estate Division, may be transmitted in lieu of the above listed certificates:

I certify that the check requested hereby is to pay an obligation of the United States as reflected on the attached (Offer to Sell) (easement or deed). I further certify that the parties signatory to this document and shown on the voucher as payees are the same parties reflected in a preliminary certificate of title issued by the _____ Title Company in the possession of the Real Estate Division of this office. The completion of the transaction will be in accordance with existing regulations pertaining to the closing of real estate acquisitions.

The landowner's signature on a voucher is not necessary. On payments involving civil funds, paragraph 3-7g, ER 37-2-10, will be followed.

(p) *Procedure After Payment.* When the above closing requirements have been met, the Closing Officer will:

(1) Immediately order a final continuation of the type of title evidence which has been contracted for. The final title evidence must be dated as of the date of recordation of the deed to the United States, or a subsequent date, to show a valid title vested in the United States of America subject only to those title defects which have been administratively waived or to those liens and encumbrances for which sufficient funds were withheld from the purchase price to satisfy and discharge them.

(2) Check carefully ENG Form 1566, Payment and Closing Sheet and Receipt for United States Treasurer's Check, to see that funds have been properly disbursed.

(3) Review the continued abstract, final certificate of title, or title insurance policy, as soon as they are prepared and determine that the proper preliminary and final title evidence and related papers on the case have been completed in proper order. Thereupon a Final Title Opinion will be prepared.

(4) Transmit as the Final Title Assembly to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314, the Final Title Opinion, title evidence and related papers.

This Final Title Assembly must be chronologically arranged and securely fastened for permanent filing, and should include the following:

- (i) Abstract of title, properly continued through time of closing; or preliminary, intermediate, and original of final certificate of title; or interim binder and original of the Title Guarantee (Insurance) Policy.
- (ii) Curative instruments and material pertaining to title defects appearing in the abstract, the final certificate of title, or the title guarantee or insurance policy.
- (iii) Deed to the United States, executed, stamped, acknowledged, and recorded.
- (iv) Copy of the accepted offer to sell (ENG Form 42 or ENG Form 2970).
- (v) Completed ENG Form 798.
- (vi) Completed ENG Form 1566.
- (vii) Statement regarding payment of taxes or amount withheld to pay the taxes.
- (viii) Where required, completed ENG Form 1290.
- (ix) If the power of attorney procedure is followed, power of attorney on proper Department of the Treasury Form and completed ENG Forms 1569 and 1571.
- (x) Certified copy of any waiver letter or certificate.
- (xi) Any other papers relating to the title or closing of the case.
- (xii) An additional copy of the deed and the Attorney's Final Title Opinion for review by the Attorney General.

(5) A copy of the executed and recorded deed will be retained by the Division or District Engineer for the project files.

(6) Similar action will be taken by the Closing Officer in acquisition of easements costing not in excess of \$1,000.

§ 644.71 Final Title Assembly.

(a) *Disposition of Final Title Assemblies.* The final title opinion and related papers will be forwarded to HQDA (DAEN-REA-P) WASH DC 20314 for review and disposition. In addition, copies of deeds and related papers in acquisitions for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Program of the Department of Energy will be forwarded to: Department of Energy, Strategic Petroleum

Reserve Project Management Office, 900 Commerce Road East, New Orleans, Louisiana 70123.

(b) *Division/District Files.* True copies will be retained for Division or District files.

§ 644.72 Transfer to Condemnation.

(a) *Transfer of Tracts from Purchase to Condemnation.* If at any time, in the course of acquisition by purchase, it becomes apparent that title clearance and closing cannot be completed within 60 days of the offer to sell, action will immediately be taken to acquire the land by condemnation in order to make funds available to the landowner.

(b) *Contents of Letter of Submittal.* In such cases the letter of submittal will contain or be accompanied by:

- (1) All title evidence.
- (2) An analysis of the title defects and a statement of the attempts which have been made to cure the defects.
- (3) A statement of the attempts to have the title infirmities waived by the title company and the reasons for refusal; or
- (4) The curative material which has been obtained to remedy the infirmities; and
- (5) Two copies of the offer to sell from the apparent owners.

ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE, DONATION, AND TRANSFER

§ 644.81 General.

Sections 644.81 through 644.88 describe the procedures of the Corps of Engineers relating to the acquisition of land and interests therein for both military and civil works projects by purchase, donation and transfer.

(a) *Applicability.* These sections are applicable to all Division and District Engineers having real estate responsibilities.

(b) *Acquisition Authority*—(1) *Limitation.* Acquisition of land for use by the United States requires express authorization (10 U.S.C. 2676, 41 U.S.C. 14).

(2) *Military.* Title 10 U.S.C. 2571 authorizes transfer of real property between Defense elements without compensation if the Secretaries approve. Title 10 U.S.C. 2662 provides that acquisition of fee title or transfer of real property owned by the United States to